which have been taken in the budget this year.

(ii) Payment of Rs. 118 crores by Oil & Natural Gas Commission in September this year whereas last year upto September, no tax had been paid by it.

(iii) The collections in the month of September last year were also adversely affected due to dislocations caused by anti-reservation agitation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The increase in collections this year is due to the reasons explained in (b) above. It is the Government's continuous endeavour to maximise collections every year. Last year also, substantial additional resource mobilisation measures were taken which improved the collection by the end of financial year.

Revenue Loss on Processed Cloth

276. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Heavy revenue loss on processed cloth" appearing in the Hindustan Times of October 7, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excise revenue collection from man-made processed cloth during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	SBE	RBE	Actual Collection	Shortfall/excess over RBE
		(Rs. in crores)		
1988-89	465	469	437	(-) 32
1989-90	600	487	489	(+) 2
1990-91	515	490	421 (Estimated)	(-) 68

(SBE- Sanctioned Budget Estimate
RBE- Revised Budget Estimate)

One of the major reasons for shortfall in revenue collection in the year 90-91 was on account of non payment of excise duty to stay granted by various High Courts. Moreover, there have been some reports of evasion of excise duty at the processing stage.

The Finance Minister while presenting the budget for the year 1990-91 observed as under:

"There is a growing concern about the plight of the handloom weaver. It is

widely belived that one of the main cause of the distress is the neutralisation of tax concessions given to this sector by wide-spread tax evasion at the processing stage. There is thus a near unanimous view in favour of transferring the excise duty from the fabrics to the yarn, which I share. However, in the case of man-made fabrics the entire duty is by way of additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax. Therefore, any change in the duty structure can be made only in consultation with the States I propose to consult the Chief Ministers in this regard".

(c) In the Inter-State Council meeting held in October, 1990, the proposal to shift the additional excise duty on fabrics to the yarn was discussed and it was decided to shift the duty to the yarn stage. However, subsequent to this, some of the State Government have expressed strong reservations in the matter and a suggestion has been made to keep the proposal pending and to discuss the matter afresh in the next Inter-State Council meeting. The issue would thus, require further consultation with the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

Problem of Drinking water in Ramgarh Cantonment Area

277. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute problem of drinking water in Ramgarh Cantonment area in Hazaribagh district of Bihar;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Ramgarh Cantonment Board for solving the drinking water problems and

(c) if so, when the requisite funds are likely to be sanctioned by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A scheme of Ramgarh Cantonment Board to provide water in four out of seven wards of the Cantonment at an estimated cost of Rs. 69.66 lakhs was approved and sanctioned as special grants-in-aid in 1985-86. The scheme is under implementation by the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Bihar.

[*English*]

Maintenance of National Highways

278. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of tar and cement roads on National Highways, separately;

(b) the steps being taken for proper maintenance of these roads; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of the total 33,689 km. length of National Highways, 625 km are missing links or having low grade unsurfaced pavement. The balance length is having basically blacktopped (tarred) surface except for very few short lengths having old concrete pavement which are gradually being converted to blacktopped surface.